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Attorney's Docket No. 43197.240364

PATENT C.F.

1/7/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Burstein et al.
Appl. No.: To be assigned
Filed: Concurrently herewith
For: ELECTROCHEMICAL TREATMENT OF METALS

October 19, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Please revise the second full paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13 to read as follows:

The electrolyte may be aqueous or non-aqueous in nature, although aqueous electrolytes are preferred for environmental reasons. Examples of suitable aqueous electrolytes include aqueous solutions of salts containing cations selected from the alkali metals, alkali earth metals, aluminum and ammonium, or other metals which, on electrolysis, do not deposit on to the surface of the metal substrate being treated, i.e. non-electroplatable metal ions. The method of the invention is, therefore, distinct from an electroplating technique as it does not result in deposition of any metallic element on to the surface of the metal being treated. Suitable counterions include hydroxide, carbonate, nitrite and nitrate. Preferred aqueous electrolytes are those of nitrogen-containing salts, such as nitrites, nitrates and ammonium salts, with sodium and potassium nitrites being particularly preferred, and sodium nitrite being the most preferred.